



State of Louisiana

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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Office Of Information Technology

Information Technology Bulletin 03-10

Subject: Firewall / VPN Standards

In conjunction with IT-POL-004, IT Bulletin 02-22, and feedback from the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), the Office of Information Technology (OIT) has determined that it is in the best interest of the State to name the Cisco firewall and VPN products as technical standards. Independent research has verified that the Cisco firewall and VPN products are clearly industry leaders. The State's aggressive discount on the current competitively established contracts ensure that these products will provide a cost effective solution.

Effective immediately, all entities as defined by R.S. 39:15.1 et seq. should begin using the Office of State Purchasing Contract Numbers 405251 and 405252 for firewall and VPN procurements in order to provide the most cost effective long-term migration strategy into the LSI and to take advantage of the excellent discounted pricing in the short-term. These are multi-year contracts that provide for alternative vendors and optional maintenance plans. Other equipment offered on these contracts may be procured at the agencies' discretion. Nothing prevents agencies from seeking improved offers for their particular procurement from these two contract holders, and it is recommended that for procurements over \$50,000 agencies consider this method. Agencies that believe using these contracts are not in the best interest of the agency may submit detailed technical and financial justification to OIT for consideration of an exception to this directive.